

Information Sheet

Political Signs

Chapter 14, Article III

Outlined below are the provisions of the Germantown Sign Ordinance pertaining to political signs. These provisions will be strictly enforced. All signs in violation are subject to removal.

Location: 1. Signs are allowed only on lots in residential zoned districts where the residence is occupied or on vacant lots with property owners permission.
2. Each candidate is allowed one (1) sign per interior lot. On corner lots, one (1) sign per street front is allowed.
3. Signs must be located a minimum distance of ten (10) feet from the street curb or edge of the road pavement where no curb exists.
4. Signs are prohibited on the rear side of double frontage lots. (Lots having a frontage on two (2) non-intersecting streets.)
5. Signs are prohibited in all districts zoned Commercial, Office and Old Germantown and at all non-conforming use businesses.

Size: The sign area of one face cannot exceed eight (8) square feet. (Sixteen (16) sq. ft for double-sided sign)

Height of Signs: A maximum of four (4) feet, measured from the surrounding grade to the top of the sign.

Content: Political signs may contain the name and picture of the candidate and information concerning the election.

Vehicles: Signs attached to, suspended from, or painted on any vehicle, which is regularly parked on any street, private, or City property, to attract the attention of the public is prohibited. Vehicles that are transporting political candidates and/or campaign assistants moving along streets from house-to-house campaigning and handing out political materials may have political signs attached to, suspended from or painted on the vehicle. However, such vehicles may not be parked in any location when the intent is to attract the attention of the public.

Enforcement: Signs located on City right-of-ways, utility poles, traffic directional signs, Old Germantown, Commercial or Office Districts, City property or vacant lots (without owner's permission) will be immediately removed. Any sign erected in violation of the Sign Ordinance is subject to immediate removal by the City.

Note: The City of Germantown, in accordance with federal case law, does not regulate the time that a political sign may be installed. The installation and removal guidelines outline below are suggested guidelines.

Installation: It is recommended that political election signs not be installed earlier than sixty (60) days prior to the election date. (primary, run-off, general election)

Removal: It is suggested political election signs be removed within seventy-two (72) hours of the polls closing.

Polling Places: Residential zone guidelines apply - limit of one sign per candidate, no more than 24 hours in advance of voting and removed within 24 hours after polls close.

Questions pertaining to political signs should be directed to the Code Compliance office at 757-7263. (Rev. 10/08)